

**Economics Legislation Committee**  
ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS ON NOTICE  
Industry, Innovation and Science Portfolio  
2016-17 Supplementary Budget Estimates  
20 October 2016

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**DEPARTMENT:** DEPARTMENT OF INDUSTRY, INNOVATION AND SCIENCE

**TOPIC:** Transparency review

**REFERENCE:** Question on Notice (Hansard, 20 October 2016, page 150)

**QUESTION No.:** SI-53

Senator WATERS: Okay. And what is the time frame for the conclusion of that transparency review?

Mr Smith: The department's process?

Senator WATERS: The department's—if you know. Sorry to inconvenience someone else! It is just a quick question.

Senator Canavan: I think we are going to have to take that on notice, because people might not be here.

Senator WATERS: Just a rough indication will do.

Mr Lawson: I have no idea!

Senator WATERS: No idea—all right, thank you. Can you take that on notice?

Mr Smith: I understand that submissions have closed, so the department would be in the policy deliberations at this point.

Senator WATERS: Okay, thank you.

**ANSWER**

In early 2016 the department commenced a review of the consultation and transparency requirements for offshore petroleum activities under the Offshore Petroleum and Greenhouse Gas Storage (Environment) Regulations 2009.

On 22 March 2016 the department released an issues paper to identify and examine issues that could impact the effectiveness of the consultation and transparency requirements under the Environment Regulations, and invited comments on the draft options to address these issues and their potential impact on stakeholders.

The department held public consultation sessions in Darwin (5 April), Melbourne (6 April), Adelaide (7 April) and Perth (8 April) that were attended by industry, environmental groups, members of the fishing industry and State and Territory government officials. The public comment period closed on 30 April 2016.

The department received 26 submissions from a range of government, industry and community stakeholders and has considered the submissions and issues raised during the consultation period.

The department is considering the submissions and comments received during the review process. The department undertook further consultation with key stakeholder groups, including industry, environmental and fishing stakeholders from 25-28 October 2016.

It is expected that the outcomes will be finalised in 2017.